

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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Crucial Period for Non-Russians

By Drew Pearson

AS A RESULT of Stalin's death, the Eisenhower Administration has decided, at least for the time being, to reverse one of his campaign pledges regarding Soviet Russia, namely to use "every psychological tactic" to free "the nations conquered by communism."

Reason for the reversal is fear of rocking the boat at a delicate international moment and giving the new leaders in the Kremlin an excuse for drastic action.

The reversal is partly based upon a go-slow recommendation from Allen Dulles, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, who incidentally now differs with his brother, John Foster Dulles, and his Buffalo campaign speech of August 27, that we should encourage "quiet revolutions" in Red-dominated countries.

This reversal may be a wise one at this time—at least so far as the United States Government is concerned.

However, it is also important to consider the possibility that Stalin's death may be the one moment when the people of Russia could more easily be divided from their masters in the Kremlin.

It may be the moment when vast hordes of non-Russians may wish to think twice about living under a regime which has consistently milked them and which has stamped out their own pride of nationalism. Whereas they were willing to go along with the revered Stalin, they may want to think twice about allegiance to the new Kremlin.

It also may be a time when private American citizens, working with Soviet refugees, could accomplish more, and with greater international safety, than the Government.

Unrest in Russia

HERE ARE SOME of the facts to be considered:

1. It is well known that unrest is rampant inside the satellite countries. Purges in Hungary and Czechoslovakia all attest to this. My own observations at the

edge of the Iron Curtain in Berlin last month convince me ferment is more intense than ever before.

2. In the Soviet Union itself, irrespective of satellites, there is also great unrest.

3. The Soviet Union, actually, is a conglomeration of 14 republics which are overwhelmingly non-Russian. Only two republics are predominantly Russian. Nationalism is still strong in the 14 republics.

Furthermore, the population of the Soviet Union is 54 percent non-Russian. Here is how Edward O'Connor, Commissioner for Displaced Persons and an expert on European populations, breaks down the different ethnic groups of the Soviet Union.

Ukrainian Soviet Republic—Population 272,000—91 percent non-Russian.

Byelorussian Soviet Republic—10,525,000—93 percent non-Russian.

Estonian Republic—1,120,000—92 percent non-Russian.

Lithuanian Republic—3,134,000—98 percent non-Russian.

Latvian Republic—1,950,000—98 percent non-Russian.

Moldavian Republic—2,321,000—100 percent non-Russian.

Georgian Republic—3,722,000—100 percent non-Russian.

Armenian Republic—1,346,000—100 percent non-Russian.

Azerbaijan Republic—3,372,000—90 percent non-Russian.

Kazakh Republic—6,458,000—80 percent non-Russian.

Uzbek Republic—6,601,000—94 percent non-Russian.

Turkmen Republic—1,317,000—93 percent non-Russian.

Tadjik Republic—1,560,000—100 percent non-Russian.

Kirghiz Republic—1,533,000—88 percent non-Russian.

Iron Curtain Line

FOR ABOUT five years, this columnist has harped on the idea, probably to the boredom of readers, that time is running against the United States and the free world in the cold war.

As time passes, the Russian population increases, and the Russian war potential, its factories, its railroads, its atomic-bomb stockpile is strengthened. Furthermore, a new generation arises in Russia which knows little of the outside world, and has no conception of the fact that the peoples of Russia and

the United States once were the best of friends.

The one and only reason for the Iron Curtain, of course, is to prevent that friendship. It is known that when Red troops were stationed in such Western areas as Germany and Austria they intermingled and became friendly—when given a chance—with Americans and other Westerners. That is the reason why Red troops are kept in virtual barricades in East Germany and Austria today.

All of this points to the problem of penetrating the Iron Curtain with effective people-to-people friendship propaganda.

As a small laboratory test of penetrating the Curtain, this columnist went to the edge of the Czechoslovak border in the summer of 1951 and, in cooperation with the Crusade for Free-

dom, launched weather balloons carrying 11 million friendship leaflets to the Czech people.

This was small-scale propaganda, and some people called it a crackpot operation. However, the results were electrifying. The Prague radio screamed with warnings to the Czech people not to read the leaflets. Naturally, this made the Czechs all the more eager to read them.

That is why I believe the time may have come, not for any official, psychological warfare by the United States, but for unofficial friendship messages from groups of the American people to show the different groups inside Russia that, if they gave up the warlike ambitions of their masters, they would have real friends in the free world.

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